

# Learning English with CBC Calgary

## Weekly newscast

### March 6th, 2015

**Lessons prepared by Amie Sondheim & Justine Light**

#### Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



[www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

## News story #1 De Grood's Emotional Court Hearing

Do you remember hearing about the 5 young people who were killed at a house party last spring? This first story is about the beginning of the court hearings for the man accused of killing the five people from that house party.

### Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Word	Definition
<b>preliminary hearing</b>	the early time spent in court that is used to get ready for the big, important court hearing
<b>evidence</b>	facts or signs that show that something is real, or has happened
<b>emotional</b>	to have strong feelings about something
<b>involved</b>	to take part in something like an activity or event
<b>witness</b>	someone who sees a crime or an accident that has happened
<b>traumatic</b>	when something traumatic happens it affect a person for a long time because it is so upsetting and horrible
<b>publication ban</b>	when certain information is not allowed to be made public

### Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

**trial** - A legal process where a crime that has been committed is discussed with a person who is thought to have committed a crime, lawyers and a judge in order to decide on the punishment

1. There were three \_\_\_\_\_ who saw the bank robbers leave the bank. They know who was \_\_\_\_\_ in the robbery because they saw the whole thing.
2. All of the \_\_\_\_\_ to prove what happened will be presented in the trial. However, the \_\_\_\_\_ will happen before the trial so everyone can get organized and ready for the big court hearing.
3. Losing a person you love can be a very \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ experience. It is one that a person will likely never forget.
4. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ put on a lot of the information that is going to be shown in the court trial, so that the media will not be able to share the details with the public.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Note-taking

Listen and take notes on the following details in the story. *Answers are in the appendix*

<b>Who is involved?</b>	
<b>What happens?</b>	
<b>Where?</b>	
<b>When?</b>	

**Activity:** Look at your notes, compare them to your partner's notes and together try to retell the news story.

## News story #2 Animal Cruelty Charges Laid

Have you ever seen an animal that looked like it was extremely sick and not being cared for properly by its owner? Would you report something like this to the police? This second story is about three people who were charged with mistreating animals.

### Vocabulary

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words with the correct definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	investigation	a) taken away from
	severely neglected	b) to do with the face
	seized	c) a physical sore or wound on the body
	injury	d) to be put on official record and punished in some way for committing a crime
	passerby	e) to look into something and learn more about it
	facial	f) a disease caused by bacteria or a virus on your body
	infection	g) a person who passes by something or someone
	charged	h) to be ignored and not looked after at all

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**animal cruelty** – to be very mean and careless towards animals

**Animal Protection Act** – a law put in place that is meant to protect animals from being neglected and abused

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

### Listening Activity: Chronological order

Put the following events in the order they happened, not in the order you hear them. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ The white bulldog-cross was found by a passerby in September.
2. \_\_\_\_ Officials searched a home where they seized 11 other dogs.
3. \_\_\_\_ Ruby was severely neglected by her owners.
4. \_\_\_\_ Investigators looked for and located Ruby's owners.
5. \_\_\_\_ Two people are now charged under the criminal code with respect to four dogs including Ruby. A third person has been charged under the animal protection act with respect to seven dogs.
6. \_\_\_\_ The dog -- known as Ruby -- got very thin with facial and body wounds and a number of infections.

**Discussion Question:** What should the punishment be for someone who abuses and mistreats animals? Do you have laws that protect animals in your country? Tell your partner about how animals are viewed and treated in your home country.

### News story #3 Dropping Real Estate Prices

Have you heard that the housing prices have dropped lately? Do you know why houses are becoming cheaper? This last story is about Calgary's housing market.

#### Vocabulary

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily. Match the words in the story with the synonyms. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
	<b>latest</b>	a) home-seller; property salesperson
	<b>decline</b>	b) believe strongly; hope; think
	<b>realtor</b>	c) twice as big; increase by two
	<b>uncertainty</b>	d) most recent; current; last
	<b>expect</b>	e) flow; direction; movement
	<b>trend</b>	f) possessions; land; home
	<b>doubled</b>	g) fall; drop; slump
	<b>property</b>	h) unsure; doubt; unchangeableness

**Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:**

**Real Estate** – property, especially land

**Home buyers** – people who are buying homes

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

#### Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. \_\_\_\_ There are 34% fewer houses being sold in Calgary this February than last February.
2. \_\_\_\_ Sam Patal sells houses and property as his job.
3. \_\_\_\_ Patal says that the housing market is leveling out and that there is a lot of certainty about the prices going forward.
4. \_\_\_\_ Home buyers will pay more in the coming months if the trend continues.
5. \_\_\_\_ The housing market in Calgary is not necessarily a "buyers' market" just yet.
6. \_\_\_\_ There were double the amount of properties for sale last year at this time.
7. \_\_\_\_ It seems like this would be a good time to buy a house in Calgary for the first time because the prices are quite low, compared to last year.

**Discussion:** What do you know about housing prices and their link to the economy? Explain.

## Language Focus: Adverbs of Time

Some adverbs of time are used to show different things in relation to time. Here are some categories with examples in each:

Points in time (Definite)	Frequency (Definite)	Frequency (Indefinite)	Relationships in time (indefinite)
now then today tomorrow tonight yesterday	daily hourly monthly nightly weekly yearly	always ever generally never normally often regularly sometimes usually	already before earlier eventually finally first just last lately next since yet

Look at the examples taken from the stories from this week. Identify the adverb and describe its' purpose for being in the sentence. See below for an example:

1. De Grood is accused of killing five young people at a northwest house party in Brentwood **last spring**.

Purpose: Point in Time- It was at this time (last spring) that the young people were killed at a house party.

Now you try to do the next 5 questions on your own. *Answers are in the appendix.*

2. His parents and friends and families of the people killed were in court today as the hearing began.
3. Eventually, officials searched a home where they seized 11 other dogs.
4. The latest numbers from the Calgary Real Estate Board show a 34 percent decline in February sales compared to the same time last year.
5. He says home buyers can expect to see lower prices in the coming months if the trend continues.
6. ...that's even though the number of properties up for sale has more than doubled from this time last year.

## Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH 6 <sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of March 6 <sup>th</sup> .	0:00
Story 1	Matthew de Grood's lawyer says this week's preliminary hearing will be emotional for everyone involved. De Grood is accused of killing five young people at a northwest house party in Brentwood last spring. His parents and friends and families of the people killed were in court today as the hearing began. Lawyer Alan Faye says everyone will re-live some very traumatic events. 13 witnesses will be called during the trial. There's a publication ban on evidence presented at the hearing.	0:08
Story 2	Three people have been charged with animal cruelty following an investigation into a severely-neglected dog that died from its injuries. The white bulldog-cross was found by a passerby in September. The dog, known as Ruby, was very thin with facial and body wounds and a number of infections. Ruby didn't have any tags, so it took investigators some time to locate her owners. Eventually, officials searched a home where they seized 11 other dogs. Two people are now charged under the criminal code with respect to four dogs including Ruby. A third person has been charged under the animal protection act with respect to seven dogs.	0:44
Story 3	The latest numbers from the Calgary Real Estate Board show a 34 percent decline in February sales compared to the same time last year. Sam Patal is a realtor for Remax. He says there is quite a bit of uncertainty going forward. He says home buyers can expect to see lower prices in the coming months if the trend continues. But neither Patal, nor an economist with the Calgary Real Estate Board, are ready to describe Calgary as a buyers' market ... that's even though the number of properties up for sale has more than doubled from this time last year.	1:35

## Answer keys

### News story 1

#### Vocabulary:

1. There were three \_\_\_\_\_ **witnesses** \_\_\_\_\_ who saw the bank robbers leave the bank. They know who was \_\_\_\_\_ **involved** \_\_\_\_\_ in the robbery because they saw the whole thing.
2. All of the \_\_\_\_\_ **evidence** \_\_\_\_\_ to show what happened will be presented in the trial. However, the \_\_\_\_\_ **preliminary hearing** \_\_\_\_\_ will happen before the trial, so everyone can get organized and ready for the court hearing.
3. Losing a person you love can be a very \_\_\_\_\_ **emotional** \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ **traumatic** \_\_\_\_\_ experience. It is one that a person will likely never forget.
4. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ **publication ban** \_\_\_\_\_ put on a lot of the information that is going to be shown in the court trial, so that the media will not be able to talk about the details with the public.

#### Listening:

<b>Who is involved?</b>	Matthew de Grood's lawyer, Alan Faye; Matthew De Grood; five young people who have been killed; Matthew's parents, the friends and families of the people who were killed; 13 witnesses
<b>What happens?</b>	There will be a preliminary hearing this week to get ready for the trial; the murder of the five people happened last Spring;
<b>Where?</b>	A party in northwest Calgary, in Brentwood; the courtroom
<b>When?</b>	Court was today; This week will be the preliminary hearing; Last spring was the murders

### News story 2

#### Vocabulary:

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
<b>e</b>	investigation	a) taken away from
<b>h</b>	severely neglected	b) to do with the face
<b>a</b>	seized	c) a physical sore or wound on the body
<b>c</b>	injury	d) to be put on official record and punished in some way for committing a crime
<b>g</b>	passerby	e) to look into something and learn more about it

<b>b</b>	facial	f) a disease caused by bacteria or a virus on your body
<b>f</b>	infection	g) a person who passes by something
<b>d</b>	charged	h) to be ignored and not looked after at all

### Listening:

1. 3 The white bulldog-cross was found by a passerby in September.
2. 5 Officials searched a home where they seized 11 other dogs.
3. 1 Ruby was severely-neglected by her owners.
4. 4 Investigators looked for and located Ruby's owners.
5. 6 Two people are now charged under the criminal code with respect to four dogs including Ruby. A third person has been charged under the animal protection act with respect to seven dogs.
6. 2 The dog, known as Ruby, got very thin with facial and body wounds and a number of infections.

### News story 3

#### Vocabulary:

Answer	Words in the story	Synonyms (Related words)
<b>d</b>	latest	a) home-seller; property salesperson
<b>g</b>	decline	b) believe strongly; hope; think
<b>a</b>	realtor	c) twice as big; increase by two
<b>h</b>	uncertainty	d) most recent; current; last
<b>b</b>	expect	e) flow; direction; movement
<b>e</b>	trend	f) possessions; land; home
<b>c</b>	doubled	g) fall; drop; slump
<b>f</b>	property	h) unsure; doubt; unchangeableness

### Listening:

1. T There are 34% fewer houses being sold in Calgary this February than there were last February.



2.   T   Sam Patal sells houses and property as his job.
3.   F   Patal says that the housing market is leveling out and that there is a lot of certainty going forward.
4.   F   Home buyers will pay more in the coming months if the trend continues.
5.   T   The housing market in Calgary is not necessarily a “buyers’ market” just yet.
6.   F   There were double the amount of properties for sale last year at this time.
7.   T   It seems like this would be a good time to buy a house in Calgary for the first time because the prices are quite low, compared to last year.

**Language focus:**

2. His parents and friends and families of the people killed were in court **today** as the hearing began.  
Purpose: **Points in time** – The people were in court on this day and no other day.
3. **Eventually**, officials searched a home where they seized 11 other dogs.  
Purpose: **Relationship in time** – After some time the officials found the home and searched it, this indicates that it took some time between when they started looking for the home and when they found it.
4. The latest numbers from the Calgary Real Estate Board show a 34 percent decline in February sales compared to the same time **last year**.  
Purpose: **Relationship in time** – Last year – there is a comparison being made between now and last year.
5. He says home buyers can expect to see lower prices in the **coming months** if the trend continues.  
Purpose: **Points in time** – over the next several months prices will become lower – this statement is specific to the months ahead in particular, not a year, or more, but just the months ahead, hence referencing a specific point in time.
6. ...that's even though the number of properties up for sale has more than doubled from **this time last year**.  
Purpose: **Relationships in time** – a comparison is being made between now and the same time last year, thus creating a relationship between two points in time.